

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 MBFR-04

SAJ-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 H-03 NSC-10

SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /153 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1835

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3304

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, EFIN, MT NATO

SUBJECT: MALTA: SPECIAL PAYMENTS

REF: (A) VALLETTA 1916 (NATAL); (B) STATE 187813

BEGIN SUMMARY: MALTA GROUP MET SEPTEMBER 28 TO DISCUSS SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO MALTA. EACH CONTRIBUTING COUNTRY REPORTED EXACT AMOUNT OF ITS OCTOBER 16 SPECIAL PAYMENT AND ASKED AMBASSADOR GETZ TO COMMUNICATE ALL FIGURES TO GOM BY OCTOBER 1. WITH REGARD TO SPECIAL PAYMENTS IN 1974, ITALY AND FRG AGREE NOW WITH THE US POSITION. NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM EXPECT TO GO ALONG BUT HAVE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME. MALTA GROUP AUTHORIZED AMBASSADOR GETZ TO RESPOND IF GOM ASKS ABOUT 1974 BY SAYING CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES ARE GIVING MATTER SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

END SUMMARY.

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1. AT MEETING OF MALTA GROUP CONVENED AT US REQUEST PER REF B, CONTRIBUTING NATIONS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 16, 1973 SPECIAL PAYMENTS, AND ASKED AMBASSADOR GETZ TO COMMUNICATE THEM TO GOM ON THEIR BEHALF:

US	113,096.42 DOLLARS
FRG	1,871,689.60 DM
ITALY	88,568,013 LIRE
BELGIUM	1,424,568 BF
NETHERLANDS	40,625 GUILDERS

2. WE HAD INFORMED OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MALTA GROUP IN ADVANCE OF MEETING THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO EXTEND THE CURRENT SPECIAL PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS, ON IDENTICAL TERMS, THROUGH CY-1974. IN TOUR DE TABLE SEEKING REACTIONS TO THE U.S. POSITION, ITALIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE U.S. DECISION AND WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT NOT ONLY FOR 1974 BUT FOR DURATION OF THE BASIC AGREEMENT.

FRG REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE U.S. POSITION AND WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE SPECIAL PAYMENTS DURING 1974 PROVIDING ALL PARTIES AGREED TO USE THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURES. BELGIAN REP REPORTED HIS AUTHORITIES WERE EXAMINING THE QUESTION WITH "GREAT SYMPATHY" BUT HE COULD NOT YET SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTINUE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS IN 1974. ON A PERSONAL BASIS THE BELGIAN REP WAS CONFIDENT THAT IT WOULD; HOWEVER, A FINAL DECISION WAS NOT A QUESTION OF DAYS OR WEEKS BUT ONE OF MONTHS BECAUSE OF BELGIAN PROCEDURAL TECHNICALITIES. NETHERLANDS REP REPORTED HIS GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF GIVING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THE MATTER. NETHERLANDS HAS DECIDED TO GIVE MALTA SOME EXTRA MONEY NEXT YEAR, BUT HAS NOT YET DETERMINED AMOUNT AND MODALITIES.

3. U.S. REP REQUESTED AN AGREED TEXT OF WHAT AMBASSADOR GETZ WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY WITH REGARD TO 1974. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION GROUP ARRIVED AT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE USED BY AMBASSADOR GETZ ONLY IF GOM RAISES SUBJECT: "I AM AUTHORIZED TO SAY ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WHO MAKE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIAL PAYMENTS THAT SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN BY THE CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES TO CONTINUING THESE SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO MALTA DURING 1974."

4. THE GROUP DISCUSSED WHAT AMBASSDOR GETZ MIGHT ADD IN THE EVENT THE GOM INQUIRED ABOUT TIMING OF FINAL DICISION RE 1974. BECUASE OF BELGIAN AND DUTCH TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, GROUP AGREED THAT AMBASSADOR GETZ SHOULD NOT EXPAND ON THE ABOVE SENTENCE.

5. GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED HOW THE SUM TOTAL OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS FOR 1973 COMPARED WITH PROJECTIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. RAPID CALCULATIONS INDICATED THAT THE TOTALAMOUNT THE GOM RECEIVES WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN JANUARY 1973 PREDICATIONS, TAKING POUNDS STERLING AS THE CURRENCY OF REFERENCE. THE MALTA GROUP AGREED THAT THESE COMPARSIONS WERE HYPOTHETICAL AND OF

LIMITED VALUE AND SHOULD BE USED BY AMBASSADOR GETZ ONLY IF NECESSARY TO COUNTER A CONTENTION BY THE GOM THAT MALTA IS GETTING LESS THAN WHAT IT WAS LED TO EXPECT IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER.

6. NO ONE RAISED THE QUESTION OF SPOKESMAN FOR 1974.

7. THE GROUP WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A REPORT OF AMBASSADOR GETZ' OCTOBER 1 MEETING WITH THE GOM.

8. USNATO UNDERSTANDS DEPARTMENT WISHES TO GIVE AMBASSADOR GETZ FINAL AUTHORIZATION TO CONTACT GOM ABOUT OCTOBER 16 SPECIAL PAYMENTS AMOUNTS.  
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